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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) Sep. 9, 1999
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

1576 '99 SEP 21 AM 17

Ref. Docket No. 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

We, the undersigned, demand that:

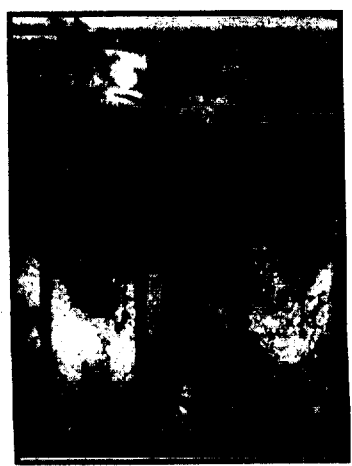
FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens immune system.

FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practice, such as forced molting, that injure human health and torture the animals. The cruelty and contamination are linked.

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**PETITION
TO STOP
FORCED MOLTING
OF LAYING HENS**

Molting occurs in all birds. Birds gradually replace old feathers with new ones each year. During natural molting a female bird stops laying eggs. Her energies are needed to grow new feathers. Egg producers practice "forced molting." They starve their hens of all food for up to 2 weeks to control egg laying and prices. The hens go into physiologic shock. They lose up to 30 percent of their bodyweight. Millions of hens die. All endure the utmost suffering of starvation. Forced molting is a major cause of Salmonella poisoning because prolonged food deprivation wrecks the hen's immune system, which causes disease.



TO: UNITED EGG PRODUCERS AND U.S. POULTRY AND EGG ASSOCIATION

WE the undersigned insist that the egg industry take immediate steps to eliminate the cruel practice of "forced molting."

C659

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96P-0418

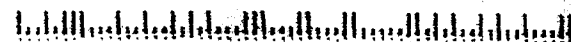


AMER. INST. OF VEDIC STUDIES
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C659

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C660
96P-0418/C659